

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application and the same are rejected. By this Amendment, claims 15-18 are canceled and claims 1, 8, and 10 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-14 remain in the application and are presented for review and further consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they do not include features of the invention specified in the claims.

Furthermore, the Examiner has rejected claims 10, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. (Examiner's Action, page 3, ¶ 3).

In response to both the drawing objection and the claim rejection, Applicants have amended claim 10 and canceled claims 17 and 18.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yang, U.S. Patent No. 6,773,182. (Examiner's Action, page 4, ¶ 1).

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Yang discloses a paper cassette in a printer. A supporting plate 30 is moveably disposed within a cassette body 20. A hinge 31 hinges the supporting plate 30 to a lower side of the cassette body 20. An aligning guide 33 is disposed on an upper side of the supporting plate 30. One end of the supporting plate 30 is elastically supported by a spring 40. Paper is removed from the supporting plate 30 by a pickup roller.

As to Applicants' independent claim 1, Yang does not disclose the supporting plate 30 being pivotal about the vertex of the supporting plate 30 and the aligning guide 33. The supporting plate 30 is pivotal about the hinge 31, which is not at the vertex of the supporting plate 30 and the aligning guide 33.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claim 1 includes wording that a tray is pivotal about the vertex of the tray and a back stop. Yang does not disclose any

structures similar to Applicants' tray and back stop that are pivotal about the vertex of the two.

As to Applicants' independent claim 8, Yang does not disclose the supporting plate 30 being disposed to catch objects. Neither does Yang disclose the aligning guide 33 being for catching objects within the supporting plate 30. The supporting plate 30 is for holding sheets of paper until they are removed by the pickup roller. The supporting plate 30 and aligning guide 33 are not for catching objects and are not disposed to do so.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claim 8 includes wording that a tray is disposed to catch objects and a back stop is for catching objects within the tray. Yang does not disclose any structures similar to Applicants' tray and back stop that are disposed to catch objects or that are for catching objects.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 11-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Melin, U.S. Patent No. 2,658,630. (Examiner's Action, page 4, ¶ 2).

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Melin discloses a lumber stacking device having bottom rails 17a'-c', side guide rails 17a''-c'', pivots 18, and screw posts 32. The side guide rails 17a''-c'' are joined to the bottom rails 17a'-c', respectively to form rack members 17a-c. The rack members 17a-c are pivotal about pivots 18. Melin does not disclose the bottom rails 17a'-c' being pivotal about the vertex of the bottom rails 17a'-c' and the side guide rails 17a''-c''. The bottom rails 17a'-c' are pivotal about the pivots 18, which is not at the vertex of the bottom rails 17a'-c' and the side guide rails 17a''-c''. At the vertex of the bottom rails 17a'-c' and the side guide rails 17a''-c'', the rack members 17a-c rest on screw posts 32. Melin does not disclose the rack members 17a-c pivoting on screw posts 32.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claim 1 includes wording that a tray is pivotal about the vertex of the tray and a back stop. Melin does not disclose any structures similar to Applicants' tray and back stop that are pivotal about the vertex of the two.

Furthermore, Melin does not disclose a bias means for resisting pivoting of the bottom rails 17a'-c' and yielding to the weight of objects caught by the bottom rails 17a'-c'. The Examiner suggest that the head sprockets 12 are bias means, but the head sprockets 12 merely cause movement in the conveyor belt, they do not operate to resist pivoting of the bottom rails 17a'-c'.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claims 1 and 8 include bias means for resisting pivoting of the tray and yielding to the weight of objects caught by the tray. Melin does not disclose any structures similar to Applicants' bias means that resists pivoting of a tray-like structure and yields to the weight of objects caught by the tray-like structure.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Heine, U.S. Patent No. 4,395,037. (Examiner's Action, page 5, ¶ 3).

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 16.

In view of Applicants' arguments and amendments with respect to independent claims 1 and 8 being allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable because they contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and further add structural and functional limitations.

The foregoing amendments and arguments are believed to be a complete response to the most recent Examiner's Action.

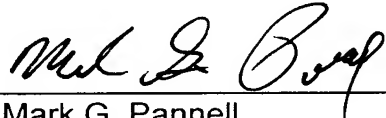
No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no claim, teaching, motivation, or suggestion in any of the prior art cited, alone or in combination, to produce what Applicants claim.

It is further submitted that the application, as amended, defines patentable subject matter and that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain which would preclude the prompt disposition of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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